Amount due from Tobacco companies to the farmers in Andhra Pradesh

1551. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of the huge amount due from the various tobacco companies to the farmers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated by Government to ensure that all tobacco companies speedily repay their dues to the farmers; and

(c) what are the details of the measures proposed to stop exploitation of farmers by the tobacco companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Some complaints have been received by the Tobacco Board from growers regarding non-payment of sale value of tobacco by tobacco companies.

(b) Tobacco Board is taking measures to ensure that payments as per Tobacco Leaf Purchase Voucher (TLPV) Regulations are made by the companies. In some cases renewal of registration has been denied to the companies.

(c) As a long term measure it is proposed to introduce compulsory auction system for regulating the sale of virginia tobacco whereby prompt payment would be ensured Initially the auction system is being introduced in Karnataka during the 1984 season.

Reorganisation of the Meteorological Department

1552. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the Bhagavantham and Ramanna Committees appointed by Government to review and make suitable recommendations regarding the reorganisation of the Meteorological Department;

(b) what action has been taken by Government thereon;

(c) what are the recommendations which could not be accepted by Government; and

(d) whether Government propose to make any further changes in the composition of the Council for Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATON (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN); (a) After examining the India Meteorological Department and the units under it, the Committee on Organisation of Scientific Research (COSR-Bhagvanthan Committee) has recommended that the Institute of Tropical Meteorology. Poona, the Astrophysical Observatory. Kodaikanal, the Colaba and Alibag Observatories, and the Seismological Division, whose activities are research oriented and mainly Scientific, covering areas outside the main current of the meteorological and hydrological services, should be constituted as autonomous institutions with clearly defined objectives and programmes which are different from but supplementary to those of the India Meteorological Department.

Ramanna Committee has made a large number of recommendations in their Report, copies of which have been supplied to the Parliament Library. To summarise, the Committee has recommended changes in the administrative structure so as to minimise inefficiency caused by adoption of conventional procedures and to enable quick implementation of programmes at all levels. Changes in politics of recruitment of officers, their training and promotion have been recommended so as to improve the manpower input thereby increasing the technical capability of the Department. Improvements in the infrastructure like instrumentation, communication facilities etc. have been suggested. Recommendations have also been made indicating the changes in approach needed so that Meteorological data and forecasts can be more effectively used in the field of agriculture. Similarly improvements needed in the

organisation of activities like hydrometeorology, flood meteorology, forecasting, climatology and research and Development, have also been made. Recommendations to improve the functioning of the two of the Institutes, while retaining their autonomy have also been made.

(b) Three autonomous Institutes have been established viz., Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bangalore and Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Bombay as recommended by COSR.

Suggestions of Ramanna Committee regarding changes in administrative structures, policies of recruitment of officers, etc. have been implemented. The Committees' technical recommendations are undergoing implementation as Plan Schemes of the Department.

(c) The recommendations have been accepted.

(d) It is not proposed to change the basic structure of the composition of the Council for Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences.

Outstanding Amount of Excise Duty

1553. SHRI KALYAN ROY:
SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1391 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th October, 1982 and state;

(a) whether Hindustan Aluminium Corporation Ltd. M/s. Texmaco Ltd. M/s. Indian Linoleum, M/s. Gwalior Rayons, M/s. Jiyajee Cotton Mills, Gwalior, Jayashree Textile Industries, Rishra, M/s. Century Spinning & Weaving Mills of the Birla group of industries, Tata Chemicals Ltd., Mithapur, M/s. Tata Oil Mills, M/s. Tata Mills, TISCO, Jamshedpur, M/s. TELCO of Tata House have not paid over Rs. 5 crores as excise duty;

(b) how much has been paid by each of them and how much is still outstanding against each of them and details thereof and the steps taken by Government to realise the amount;

(c) on how many occasions each of the above companies has issued bonus shares during the last five years and the details thereof; and

(d) what is the amount of corporate tax paid by each of these companies from 1980 to 1984 and the details thereof, company-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINSTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Malpractices, Misappropriation, etc., in the Punjab and Sind Bank

1554. SHRI KALYAN ROY:
SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether serious malpractices, misappropriation, cheating, etc., of crores of rupees by senior officials (S. Gurpal Singh and others) of the Punjab and Sind Bank have been detected after a full investigation by the CBI;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether CBI also detected various malpractices in the Head Office Loans Department;

(d) whether CBI investigation strongly recommended follow up action as there was *prima-facie* case against the officers;

(e) if so, what action has been taken by the Bank authorities;

(f) whether in spite of the fact that all these have been brought to the notice of CMD, Executive Director and General Manager no follow up action has been taken and Shri S. Gurpal Singh, the main accused, has been given hurried promotion;

(g) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and